

**LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A discussion forum resource comprising:  
at least one topic thread disposed in the discussion forum resource forum and created for externally sourced content in the discussion forum resource, wherein said externally sourced content comprise postings from another discussion forum resource;  
and,  
a data aggregator executing in a computing platform and coupled to said at least one topic thread and configured to manage said externally sourced content in said at least one topic thread.
2. (Original) The discussion forum resource of claim 1, wherein said externally sourced content comprise data selected from the group consisting of text, audio, imagery and video.
3. Cancelled.
4. (Currently Amended) The discussion forum resource of claim 1[3], wherein said data aggregator further comprises a configuration for writing responsive postings in said at least one topic thread disposed in the discussion forum resource to said another discussion forum resource.
5. (Currently Amended) A discussion forum management method comprising the steps of:

receiving externally sourced data for posting in a discussion forum resource;  
creating a new topic thread for said externally sourced data; and,  
~~permitting~~ responsively posting[s] to said externally sourced data in said new  
topic thread.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:  
determining whether subsequently received postings are responsive postings  
which relate to said externally sourced data; and,  
posting said subsequently received postings to said external data source if it is  
determined that said subsequently received postings are responsive postings which relate  
to said externally sourced data.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said externally sourced data  
comprises data selected from the group consisting of text, audio, imagery and video.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said externally sourced data  
comprises postings for another discussion forum resource.

9. (Currently Amended) A machine readable storage having stored thereon a  
computer program for discussion forum management, the computer program comprising  
a routine set of instructions which when executed by a machine cause the machine to  
perform the steps of:

receiving externally sourced data for posting in a discussion forum resource;

creating a new topic thread for said externally sourced data; and,  
permitting responsively posting[s] to said externally sourced data in said new  
topic thread.

10. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 9, further comprising the  
steps of:

determining whether subsequently received postings are responsive postings  
which relate to said externally sourced data; and,

posting said subsequently received postings to said external data source if it is  
determined that said subsequently received postings are responsive postings which relate  
to said externally sourced data.

11. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 9, wherein said externally  
sourced data comprises data selected from the group consisting of text, audio, imagery  
and video.

12. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 9, wherein said externally  
sourced data comprises postings for another discussion forum resource.

13. (Currently Amended) A collaborative environment configured to include external  
data sources in a discussion forum resource comprising:

at least two discussion forum resources coupled to each other; and,

a data aggregator executing in a computer platform and disposed between said at least two discussion forum resources and configured to synchronize postings related to one another in said at least two discussion forum resources.